(g) whether there is any proposal to supply essential commodities at cheaper rates to the common man?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SARWAR HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) A statement showing the monthwise percen. tage variation in the Wholesale Price Indices of selected essential commodities from November, 1989 to November, 199© is given in Annexure— (See Appendix CLVI, Annexure No. 5).

(c) In & vast country like India where Public Distribution System network consists of over 3.60 lakhs Fair Price Shops occasional shortages due to local factors such as transportation failures etc cannot be ruled out. However, no reports of shortages of rice, wheat and sugar were received by the Central Government. There were reports of shortage of pamolein due to lack of import, and also of kerosene in some parts of the country.

(d) A statement showing the month-wise Wholesale Price Index from November, 1989' to November, 1990 and Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers from November, 1989 to October, 1990 (latest available) is attached (See below).

(e) & (f). The Government has accorded highest priority to check the rising trend in prices of essential commodities and contain the inflationary trends. Both long term and short-term measures are therefore, being taken for the purpose. Besides macro-economic measures to bring about financial and fiscal discipline, the supply management measures taken broadly include steps to increase production of essential commodities, procurement and buffer stocking operations of foodgrains, strengthening of Public Distribution System, enforcement of the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act and other regulatory measures and augmenting domestic supplies through imports (e.g. edible oils, pulses and petroleum products in order to check any abnormal rise in the prices of essential commodities.

(g) No, Sir. However, the Government is already supplying rice and wheat at subsidised rates to the people living in Tribal areas since December 1985. This Scheme covers all the people, tribals as well as non-tribals, living in 191 ITDP areas in 17 States and 2 Union Territories.

*Statement*

| Month | Wholesale Price Index (Base 1981-82-100) | Consumer Price Index .Base 4982-100) | % |
|---|---|---|---|
| November 1989 | 167.5 | 176 | |
| December 1989 | 166.6 168.0 | 175 174 | |
| January 1990 | | | |
| February 1990 | 168.8 | 175 | |
| March 1990 | 170.1 | 177 | |
| April 1990 | 172.8 | 180 | |
| May 1990 | 174.0 | 182 | |
| June 1990 | 176.9 | 185 | |
| July 1990 | 179.3 | 189 | |
| August 1990 | 180.2 | 190 | |
| September 1990 | 180.9 | 191 | |
| October 1990 | 182-7 | **195** | |
| November **1990** | 184.3 | — | |